THE METROP[illegible]AMISSION,
Exchange Building, State Street, Room 408,
BOSTON, MASS.

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Metropolitan Park Commission

August, 1892.

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Metropolitan Park Commission

Charles Francis Adams of Quincy,
Chairman.
Philip A. Chase of Lynn
William B. de las Casas of Malden

Aug. 23 A meeting of the Commission was held at one o'clock at the office of Mr. Adams, 23 Court st. Present, Messrs. Adams and Chase. On motion of Mr. Chase it was voted to appoint Sylvester Baxter secretary of the Commission until January 1, 1893, and it was further voted to fix the secretary's salary during that period at $150 a month.

The secretary was requested to see if arrangements could be made with the Boston Park Commission for the use of its rooms for hearings and for other purposes, and to obtain convenient quarters in some central location.

The secretary was also authorized to purchase such stationery as might be needed and was requested to submit in the form of a letter his suggestions as to the course to be pursued by the commission in its investigations.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

Aug. 30. The meeting of the Commission was held at one o'clock, at Mr. Adams' office. Present, Messrs Adams and Chase, and Mr. Chas. Eliot, the landscape architect, on invitation of the Commission. A letter from Mr. Las Casas was read by the Chairman expressing his regret at his inability to be present and stating his concurrence in whatever the other members might agree upon.

The Chairman called attention to a letter written by the Secretary, at the request of the Board, making some suggestions as to the course advisable to be pursued in the investigation of the Commission.

The Secretary stated that he had engaged quarters for the Commission at Room 408, Exchange Building and that the Boston Park Commission had kindly given the use of its rooms to the Metropolitan Park Commission for the purpose of hearings.

The work of the Commission was informally discussed, and it was agreed that a series of trips to the various portions of the Metropolitan

district in company with the landscape architect and with officials and others locally interested, should be desirable, and the Secretary and landscape architect were requested to draw up an itinerary for such a series of trips. The Secretary stated that invitation had been received from gentlemen in Waltham to make an excursion on the Charles River within the limits of Newton and that City, accompanied by the Mayors of Waltham and Newton together with other gentlemen interested.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

A meeting of the Commissioners was held at this office, at one o'clock. Present Messrs Adams and Las Casas. It was voted that the Chairman be authorized to approve bills and vouchers for expenditures made by the Commission. The Secretary was instructed to report to the State authorities the facts concerning the organization of the Commission.

The subject of visits of inspection to various portions of the Metropolitan district, was discussed, and it was decided to make two Harbor trips, investigating the northern and Southern Shores of the Harbor, respectively, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, if pleasant.

The Secretary was instructed to engage a tugboat and other conveniences necessary for the occasion, as well as to make other required arrangements. He was also requested to invite Mr. Desmond Fitz Gerald and such other gentlemen, as he and the landscape architect might deem advisable.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

Sept. 14. The Commission made yesterday an inspection of the northerly shores of the Harbor and Bay. They were accompanied by the members of the Lynn Park Commission, Mr. Spinney, Mr. Hawkes, Mr. Pinkham and Mr. Jones; Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, Engineer of the Boston Water Board; and the Secretary. They went in the steam launch "Friend", Captain Driscoll, along the shores of East Boston and Winthrop, through Shirley Gut and across the Bay to Nahant, where, at the town landing, they took a barge and proceeded to the Nahant Club. Here they met the three members of the Swampscott Board of Selectmen, making altogether a party of eleven.

After lunch they proceeded in the same barge along the Nahant Beaches to Lynn, thence through Nahant St. to Swampscott where they examined the site of the proposed water-side esplanade, running from the Lynn line to the point where the highway runs close by the beach which is there owned by the town.

The proposed esplanade or seaside park would occupy the site now

covered by a number of ugly fish houses and an equally ugly Hotel. To purchase the land would cost eighteen thousand dollars and a subscription is now on foot to secure that amount. The plan of the improvement shown by the Selectmen indicates that it would be a pleasure-ground of remarkable beauty, occupying, as it does, one of the most beautiful sites on the Massachusetts coast.

The town officials, are very strongly in favor of the improvement. A small portion of the proposed park is on the Lynn side of the line.

From Swampscott the party drove past Flax and Sluice Ponds to the Great Woods entrance of the Lynn Woods, thence over the Great Woods Road to Mt. Gilead, where a considerable pause was made for enjoying the succession of superb views, and thence driving by the Dungeon Road, from the Hemlock Ridge to Dungeon Rock, leaving the Woods by the Breed's Pond Road.

The members of the party were all deeply impressed by the magnificent pleasure-grounds of two

thousand acres possessed by the people of Lynn in the Woods.

The party drove from the Pier past the Birch ~~Pond~~ Basin of the Lynn Water works ^ to Saugus Centre, where they examined the spot known as Appleton's Pulpit ^ and a beautiful grove on the shores of Franklin's Pond close by, where it is proposed to lay out a public park.

On the way back through the village they noted the beautiful view from the highway near Franklin's Mills, looking down the valley of the Saugus to the eastward, making a passage of meadow land traversed by the serpentine stream and enclosed by park like uplands, the whole forming a picture of exceptional charm.

At the railway Station the party separated, those living in Saugus Lynn and Swampscott driving back and the others taking the train for Boston.

The trip arranged for the South side of the Harbor to day was postponed on account of the inclemency of the weather.

Sept. 17. On Saturday last, September 17, the Commissioners, accompanied by Mr. Eliot, the landscape architect, and the Secretary, made a tour of inspection of the Charles River between Newton Upper Falls and Waltham. Taking the 10.45 train from Boston they were joined at Brookline by Mr. Desmond FitzGerald and at Newton Highlands they took a barge for the Upper Falls; they proceeded to the bridge on Boylston St. to examine the wild and beautiful glen through which the River flows at that point, between the bridge and the Falls, clothed on the left by a beautiful growth of hemlock trees and with the arch of the Echo Bridge carrying the Sudbury Aqueduct of the Boston State System spanning the River in the middle distance. Beneath the arch the old mill at the Falls is is seen, forming a picturesque feature.

It was agreed that this was one of the most beautiful spots in the neighborhood of Boston, and that its preservation for public use should, by all means, be secured.

After walking through the hemlock woods, where the banks of the River are wild and rocky, rising

abruptly in a conglomerate formation, they proceeded to the Echo Bridge which, by courtesy of Mr. Fitz Gerald, they examined, and descended into the aqueduct at an point where it crosses the bridge. From here they drove down on the Newton side of the River, obtaining many beautiful views of the valley for the way to the Woodland Park Hotel in Auburndale, where the party lunched in company with Mr. E.B. Haskell and Prof. Niles of the Institute of Technology. At about 2.30 o'clock they were met at the landing of the Newton Boat Club at Riverside by a number of Waltham and Newton gentlemen who, under the initiative of Mr. Carl H. Wheaton, had invited the Commissioners to make the trip down that portion of the River.

The party, filling two steam launches and a rowboat in tow, included Mayor Mayberry of Waltham, Mayor Hibbard of Newton, the members of the Waltham Park Commission, the Newton Superintendent of Streets, and a number of gentlemen in both Cities interested in the question of parks and particularly of preserving the River in a natural state for

public uses and pleasure purposes.

The party also included Mr. K. D. Andrews, of the town of Weston, and the Hon. Robert Treat Paine of Boston, who is a summer resident of Waltham.

The Commissioners were deeply impressed by the remarkable beauty of the River, its extensive use for boating purposes together with the necessity of preserving it in a proper condition not only for pleasure purposes but on sanitary grounds.

The party landed at Forest Park so called, a picnic ground in Waltham and Newton, and examined that part of the shores, after which they landed at Crescent Park, a new residence portion of Waltham occupying a large island in the River, and walked thence to the Watch Factory, where they were handsomely entertained at lunch by Mr. Wilcox, the Manager of the works representing the company.

It had been intended to visit Prospect Hill but owing to the lateness of the hour it was decided to postpone it until another occasion. It was also decided to make the

visit of inspection to the southerly portion of the Harbor on Saturday September 24, should the weather prove favorable.

Sept. 26. On Saturday last the Commission made a trip of inspection in the steam launch "Friend," among the Islands and along the shores of the southerly portion of the Harbor and Bay. There were with the party, besides the three Commissioners, the landscape-architect and the Secretary, Gen. Francis A. Walker of the Boston Park Commission Mr. Clark and Mr. E. W. Howe, the Secretary and Civil Engineer, respectively of the same Commission, together with Mr. Rice of the Quincy Park Commission; Mr. Tilus, a resident of Squantum, in Quincy; Messrs Beales and Cook of the Weymouth Park Commission and Mr. Francis Brewer of Hingham.

The party first landed on Castle Island to see the works that had been begun there by the Boston Park Commission, the Island having this summer been made a part of the Boston Park system by leave of the national Government. They were shown over the Fort and obtained a remarkably fine view over the Harbor and the

shores from the Paradise.

Re-embarking, they went along past Thompsons Island through Dorchester Bay to the channel between the Island and Squantum. Every one was highly impressed by the remarkable beauty and variety of the shore of the Bay, and particularly of the rocky headland at Squantum about the only prominent rock formation on the shore, Thompsons Island, from various directions, also presenting a remarkable appearance with its well grown plantations of trees, showing what might be accomplished on the other islands in the Harbor by tree planting.

Mr. Titus explained what might possibly be done by carrying the new high level sewer directly across the Bay on an embankment from the old Pasture to Squantum there connecting with the existing sewer to Moon Island and forming a Parkway and a beautiful drive and making of Dorchester Bay a fine basin at all stages of the tide.

From this point the party

proceeded across Quincy Bay to where it is proposed to lay out the other drive along the entire Bay from Houghs Neck to Squantum. They entered Hingham Bay at Hull Gut and proposed to land at Peddocks Island but as the landing had been removed it was found that the time was too short. At Hingham the party proceeded to the Cushing House to lunch where they were met by Dr. J. H. Robbins and Mr. Solomon Lincoln of Hingham.

On the return they coasted along the southerly shore into Weymouth Fore River and the Weymouth Commissioners called attention to Weymouth Great Hill which commands a remarkably fine view of the Harbor and surrounding country.

At Quincy Point Mr. Adams and Mr. Bates left the party and the others returned to Boston.

Sept 30. The Commission made yesterday a trip of inspection through Winthrop Revere and Chelsea and over the lower Mystic to Medford. They were kindly furnished with transportation over the Revere Beach R.R. by Mr. C. A. Hammond, Superintendent, who expressed himself much interested in the work of the Commission and regretted his inability to accompany the party, which included the three Commissioners, the landscape architect and the Secretary; Mayor Converse of Chelsea; Hon. E. M. Chamberlain, chairman of the Chelsea Park Commission; Mr. F. P. Bennett of Everett and Mr. Howard A. Carson, the chief engineer of the Metropolitan Sewerage works. At Orient Heights station they were met by Mr. David Floyd, 2nd, the town treasurer of Winthrop who kindly guided the party through the town and proved himself very friendly towards such improvements as the Commission suggested. The party had for the occasion one of Messrs Bacon and Tarbell's large carriages belonging to the Franklin

service and is moved in much easy
driving and agreeable vehicles. They
enjoyed the view over the northerly
portion of the Harbor and surrounding
country from Winthrop Great Road, &
thence proceeded along Winthrop Beach
which fortunately is bordered by a
highway although of very insufficient
width. Notwithstanding this fact the
Beach is private property, but being
held in common by the adjacent
property holders under restrictions
as to its use it luckily can never
be occupied by buildings and will
probably always remain open to the
public.

In Winthrop, before proceeding
to Great Head they were shown a
swampy tract which the owner, a lady
proposed to give to the town for
park purposes and which is capable
of utilization without a very great expense
for improvement. In the center of
the town they were shown over the
works for the mortar battery of 32 inch
now under construction by the National
government and which will probably
serve the town to a great degree
under certain restrictions, as a shelter

round. On Prospect Cliff a strong battery of 3 monster guns is also under construction. Hence the Commission proceeded along the Shore through Beachmont to Crescent Beach where they were joined by Mr. Carr of the Chelsea Park Commission and Hon. A. D. Bosson also of Chelsea. They found the Strathmore closed for the season and were disappointed in their expectations at lunch but they found a satisfactory Shore lunch at a neighboring restaurant. A four seated carriage was here engaged to carry the new members of the party which drove thro' Revere to Snake Creek on the boundaries of Chelsea and Revere. It occupies a beautiful valley available for Park purposes.

At Chelsea Bridge they were joined by Messrs Roswell B. Lawrence and William B. Lawrence of Medford; by Messrs Mead and Foster of the Everett Park Commission and by Mr. Winter and two other members of the Cambridge City Council Committee on Parks. After examining the beautiful grounds of the Soldiers' Hospital on the Shores of the Mystic

by courtesy of the Commanding Surgeon who was represented by Mr. Kittelson they took the steam launch "Friend" and proceeded up the Mystic noting on the right Van Voorhis Place, in Everett, bordering the banks of the Mystic with beautiful hill slopes and forming the only available situation for a genuine park of real landscape beauty in that town. On the left they were shown the two small pleasure grounds under construction in Charlestown by the Boston Park Department, at Bunker Hill and at ~~Duffs~~ Tufts Mill Pond. After some delay at the railway bridges, they ~~proceeded~~ up the River examining the shore of Somerville and Medford and arrived at Old Medford without mishap having spent a most enjoyable day, favored by perfect September weather.

Oct. 3. On Saturday the Commissioners made their 5th tour of inspection, the Middlesex Fells region forming the subject of their investigations. They first went to Malden and with those invited to accompany them took three Franklin Park carriages. The party comprised the three Commissioners, the landscape architect and the Secretary, Messrs Desmond FitzGerald, of the Boston Water Works; W. E. Clarke, Secretary of the Boston Park Commission; Alfred D. Turner, Jr. Chairman of the Malden Water Board; John E. Staples, Chairman of the Malden Board of Health; Costello C. Converse and H. S. O'Donnell, of the Malden Park Commission; C. H. Lamb and L. J. Todd of the Winchester Committee on Public Plots; H. S. Hopkins of Malden and Walter B. Wright of Medford, together with representatives of the Malden Mail and the News.

At the Malden Hospital the party enjoyed a broad view over the surrounding country and looked at the land near by which it is proposed to devote to a local park.

They then walked across the country to the Bear's Den Road and thence through a wild portion of the Fells to an elevation on the neighborhood of the Dutton place where another grand view was obtained. At the Dutton

place the carriages, were again taken and the party drove to Fine Woods and Mt. Echo, a beautiful private park maintained by Hon. E. S. Converse. From here they drove through Melrose to Serall Woods which has been given to the town by Mrs. Babot as a memorial of her parents the late Hon. and Mrs. Samuel Serall. They again entered the Fells through the Ravine Road and at the Longwood were served with lunch, the Hon. L. L. Fuller, ex mayor of Malden joining them here. After lunch they drove to the foot of Bear Hill, the highest part of the Fells and walking to the top enjoyed the extensive view in all directions with the beautiful lakes formed by the Winchester reservoirs, in the valley to the west and near by. They walked along the ridge to Taylor Mountain where they obtained other fine views and again taking the carriages near Spy Pond they drove to Medford passing on the way Pine Hill an elevation of noble shape where Mr. Walter C. Wright plans to give in memory of his father the late Elijah Wright, 40 acres of forest land in case Middlesex Fells is made a public domain.

The party was deeply impressed with the importance of preserving the Fells region to public uses.

Oct. 10. On Saturday last, October 8, the Commissioners made their sixth tour of inspection in the suburbs of Boston. They left the Lowell station on Causeway Street at 10.15 o'clock for West Medford, where two Franklin Park carriages were taken. The company included beside the Commissioners, the Secretary and the landscape architect, members of the Park Committees of Cambridge and Arlington and of the Park Commission of Belmont.

The day proved an exceptionally beautiful one although the weather seemed threatening early in the morning. The temperature was mild and the air was filled with a soft haze which although it obscured the distance, beautified the landscape. The party drove first around the Mystic Lakes by the way of Grove Street in Medford, to Winchester and back to Arlington. They stopped for a while to visit the beautiful new public library building, the Robbins memorial by invitation of citizens of that place. They then went to the shore of Spy Pond at Spring Valley

near the home of J. T. Trowbridge the poet and thence drove through Belmont to the Waverly Oaks. Every one was deeply impressed with the remarkable beauty of the landscape at the Oaks and with the necessity of doing something at the earliest possible date to cause their reservation as a public pleasure ground together with the land around Beaver Brook for some little distance above the Cascade which beautiful and picturesque spot they also visited. At the Oaks they were joined by Mr. E. H. Clement, the Editor of the Transcript.

They drove from here to the beautiful country seat of the Hon. Robert Treat Paine in Waltham, where the party were joined by Mayor Mayberry of Waltham and the Park Commissioners of that City. The company was handsomely entertained at lunch by Mr. Paine and after a stroll over his charming grounds they drove to Prospect Hill where it is proposed that Waltham shall preserve a space a mile square as a public park. They ascended to the inner summits of the Hill and enjoyed a wide and glorious view although it was not so extended as it would have been had not such a haze prevailed.

From Prospect Hill they returned to

Hartham and took the train for Boston.

The day proved one of the most enjoyable of the series.

Oct. 13. Yesterday the Commissioners together with the landscape architect and the secretary went down the Harbor on a tour of inspection, leaving by the boat for Hull at 10 oclock. The day was a beautiful one and though somewhat hazy fine views of the Harbor and its shores were obtained. On Hull the party went first to the top of telegraph Hill which afforded a view of the outer Boston Bay and the shores of Hull, on both sides as well as over Hingham Bay.

Telegraph Hill was ascertained to be mainly the property of Mrs Andrew, widow of the late governor and it was also learned that the National Government proposed to place a battery there. Returning to the village Dr. Litchfield, the Chairman of the Selectmen was joined together with Mr. Louis Saarovitch, a member of the local park commission. Some interesting facts were learned concerning the attempt to lay out a little park in the centre of the village and something was told the Commission of the movement on foot for reserving the beach near the landing, where the buildings were recently swept away by fire as a pleasure ground.

A most enjoyable lunch sent by Mr.

Adams was served in the rear of a store near the landing, the proprietor hospitably granting the use of his place.

A sailboat was taken after lunch for Peddrick's Island in company with Dr Litchfield and Mr Sarvitch and the two main entrances of the Island were visited. The views from these hills were fine and extensive and it was agued that it would be a excellent place to secure for park purposes, having the advantage of being practically unoccupied except by a narrow strip near the shore where there are a few cottages and shanties used during the summer.

Mrs Andrew is also the owner of the most of this Island and it is said that the National Government purposes to establish another battery on the Northerly side.

Returning to Hull the steamer was taken for the City, which was reached at 4 o'clock.

Oct. 11. Yesterday the Commission made its eighth tour of inspection. The party consisted of the three Commissioners, the Secretary and the Landscape Architect together with Col. Batchelder, the Chairman of the Hyde Park Committee on Parks and his associate Mr. Geo. E Anderson, Mrs. Geo. L. Richardson, Chas. G. Crick and A.P. Birkmore of Hyde Park, Mr. A.T. Kidder of the Milton Park Commission, Mr. Desmond FitzGerald of the Boston State Works, Sec. Cooke of the Boston Park Commission and Mr. E.W. Howe, Engineer of the Park Commission. They left the Providence station at 10.05 for Forest Hills when they took Franklin Park Stagonettes and drove through the Arnold Arboretum to Bussey Hill and thence to the State Street entrance of the Arboretum and through the wild and interesting region lying within the limits of both Boston and Brookline known as the Allandale country.

Hence they went to Bellevue Hill in West Roxbury where by courtesy of Mr FitzGerald they enjoyed fine views from the observatory of the water tower. They then drove along Washington Street and viewed the landscape from several notable points looking towards Blue Hill over what is known as the Muddy Pond Wilderness. Walking through the wilderness for the most of the way, followed by the

carriages over the rough roads they formed it a most enjoyable drive covered for the most part by young growth and full of rough ledges. From its neighborhood to a large population it seemed excellently adapted for public forest purposes. On the southeasterly side of the woods they were much impressed by the fine growth of pines bordering what is known as Poplar Street in Boston and Pine Street in Hyde Park.

From here they drove by what is known as the Hemlock Road to the pleasant region at the head of London Avenue. On London Avenue a stop was made at the grounds of Col. Batchelder, where Mr. Richardson's topographical map of the region, a remarkably fine piece of workmanship, was examined and it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Richardson was entitled to high praise for producing so fine a piece of work as this.

By courtesy of the Waverly Club the party enjoyed an excellent dinner in the handsome banquet hall of the club house. After this the party drove through Hyde Park to the River and looking at the River banks they drove on the left side to Mattapan where they crossed to the Milton bank and continued downside through the private grounds of Mr. John M. Forbes. At the Lower Mill they crossed the stream again to the

Boston side enjoying the view up and down stream and afterwards proceeded up Milton Hill, thence down the valley overlooking the long stretch of meadows, marshes and uplands through which the River meanders down into the Bay, they found one of the noblest prospects in the neighborhood of Boston. Thence they drove by way of Squantum Street through Quincy to Neponset where they took the train for Boston, the Hyde Park members proceeding with the carriages to the nearest station of the New York and New England R. R.

Oct. 17. On Saturday last the ninth tour of inspection took place. The party leaving Boston consisted of Messrs Adams and Lee Cazan of the Commission the Secretary Messrs Pratt & Knight and Lawrence B. Lawrence of Medford and Messrs Pratt, Todd and Johnson of the Municipal Committee on Public Plots. Mr. Shaw was unable to join the party and Mr. Eliot was also kept away by reason of a bad cold.

They left the Haymarket Square station of the Boston and Maine R.R. by the 10 o'clock train for Medford, where they were met by carriages furnished by the courtesy of Mr. D.N. Skillings of Winchester. They drove through to Pine Hill where, guided by Mr. Knight and his sister, Miss Ellen Knight, they enjoyed the wide prospect over the surrounding country, obtaining an excellent idea of the topography of that portion of the Fells region. Pine Hill being the most southerly outlook point on the Fells.

The Hill belongs to Miss Knight, who proposes to give it in case the Fells becomes a public domain, while Mr Knight proposes also to give a tract of land covered with a magnificent growth of pine

on the South side of Forest Street. Leaving the Hill on the Westerly side the party walked through the picturesque tract occupied by the quarries and a well grown forest of deciduous trees. Forest Street attention was called to a valley which the town of Medford hopes to secure for its water supply and on the opposite side a large tract of land was visited which Medford has already taken for the same purpose.

Driving back to Medford the party crossed the Mystic at the Broadway Bridge and proceeded by the southerly shore of the River to West Medford where they crossed to the northerly side and went to the outlet of the lower Mystic Pond. From here they went up Grove Street to Winchester, crossing the Abbajona River where it flows into the upper lake after leaving from the Wedgemere above where trees like a considerable proportion of acreage was inspected.

In Winchester they went to Mr. Skillings place at Dunglen and where at the Divine they were received by Mr. Skilling and several other citizens of Winchester and invited by their host to join him in a most excellent lunch.

From here they drove on to Fells

with Mr. Skillings to the Swan Swamp Basin of the Winchester water supply in the heart of the mountain Pollard lying within the limits of Medford. It is a beautiful basin the water having already risen sufficiently to form a fine lake & is bordered by bold and rocky shores entirely covered with woods. Returning to Winchester in the carriages which had been sent, and after parting with the other members of the party the official members drove to Town where at the Public Library they were met by Mayor Thompson and the five members of the Park Commission of that City, who drove them just to the beautiful Park lately acquired by the City to the northward of the centre of population, comprising thirty-seven acres of undulating country and largely covered by a fine growth of pines and deciduous trees. It commands some pleasing prospects and is admirably adapted to regular park treatment. From here they drove to Rag Rock, a lofty crag to the northward of the town where they obtained a grand view over the City and the surroundings.

Next they drove to the borders of Horn Pond, a naturally beautiful sheet of water

which forms a source of supply for the City but whose shores are considerably disfigured by ice houses and other undesirable encroachments.

Then a look at the water meter, the party separated and all the official members drove to Manchester, where they took the train for Boston.

Oct. 9

Yesterday the Commissioners made their tenth tour of inspection, proceeding to West Quincy by the Old Colony Railroad. They took Franklin Park carriages for a drive through the Blue Hill range. Beside the Landscape architect and the Secretary they were accompanied by Mr. Augustus Hemenway of Milton, Mr. [illegible] Rice of the Quincy Park Commission, Dr. H. L. Paxton of Quincy and Mr. Thomas A. Watson of Braintree. They drove from West Quincy through a considerable portion of Braintree and visited the basin and water shed of the Quincy water works recently acquired by that City from a private company, and saw in various parts of the woods a number of piggeries and other nuisances which show how a region might be injured to the detriment of the entire neighborhood by unrestricted private occupancy.

Walking and driving alternately through the woods and obtaining interesting views of the Blue Hill range from the South eastern side they went to what is known as Great Pond or Norcross in Braintree, a source of water supply for Holbrook, Randolph and Braintree, and then walked through the

notch of the Blue Hills that separates Chickatawbut Hill from the westerly elevations of the range. At the Randolph Road they resumed their carriages and drove through Forest Street on the northerly side of the range back through ~~Hillside Street~~ Canton Ave. to Houghton's Pond where after a look at that beautiful little sheet of water nestling amid the woods and hills they drove along the southerly base of the Blue Hills to the westerly side, where at Mr. Heinemann's beautiful home on Canton the party was handsomely entertained at lunch.

Thence they walked to the top of the Great Blue Hill in the afternoon, and by courtesy of the official in charge of the Roche Observatory, enjoyed the magnificent view from the summit, which, although the distant landscape was obscured by haze was nevertheless grand and extensive.

Returning to the foot of the Hill they resumed their carriages and drove by the way of Brush Hill Road to the station, at Mattapan.

Oct. 24. On Saturday last Mr. Chase of the Commission accompanied by the Landscape Architect and the Secretary ~~and~~ Mr. Ross Turner, the landscape painter and Mr. Stebbins the photographer, took the train for Milton on the Old Colony at 10.45. Mr. Chase had by accident missed the previous trip to the Blue Hills and this trip was taken in order to show him a portion which could be reached only on foot and also in order to show Mr. Turner locations for sketches of scenery which might be desirable for the Commissioners report and to which justice could not be done by photograph.

At Milton the picturesque shores of the Neponset were admired for a while at the head of tide water of that stream and Mr. Stebbins was left to secure various photographs in the vicinity. The rest of the party took a carriage and drove through Milton by a pleasant route to the Blue Hills at Houghtons Pond where the carriage was left and a tramp was taken over the wild country on the southerly slopes of the Hills. Lunch was enjoyed in a pleasant valley, sheltered from the north westerly wind which

was blowing briskly.

After lunch the party proceeded through the woods and up the valley between the Big Blue and Hancock's Hill and some little excitement was caused by a rattlesnake which badly frightened Mr. Turner as he came upon it gliding away out of the path, he being in advance of the rest of the party, a position which thereafter he prudently declined to assume.

After a rough scramble up the easterly slope, the top of the Big Blue Hill was reached and the day being very clear a magnificent view was obtained in all directions. At the foot of the Hill a carriage from Hyde Park awaited the party who returned by the way of the Brush Hill Road, stopping a while at Mr. Fiot's house and enjoying the magnificent view of the entire range from that point, after which they drove to the Mattapan station of the Old Colony and took the train.

Oct. 31. A meeting of the Commission was held at this office at 11 o'clock.

The work of the Commission was discussed informally, and various suggestions were made.

Mr. Las Casas was requested to consider the matter of employing legal council to draft a bill for presentation to the Legislature and to report at the next meeting of the Commission. It was agreed that each member of the Commission and also the Landscape Architect and the Secretary should draw up for consideration at the next meeting memoranda of their ideas as to the most important of the various features under consideration.

The Landscape Architect was instructed to prepare a map of the region under investigation, showing thereon the already existing reservations for public recreation and capable of being utilized as such and also the various proposed reservations that might be suggested and recommended by the Commission. And he was authorized to make copies

of the State Topographical Survey maps necessary for the purpose.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

Nov. 2. Yesterday the Commissioners made a tour of inspection of the Lower Charles River, between Boston and Watertown, in connection with the Charles River Improvement Commission accompanied by the Secretary; Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted; Mr. Clark, Secretary of the Boston Park Commission; Mr. Howe, its engineer; Dr. Walcott, Chairman of the State Board of Health; Messrs Swift and Baker of the Land and Harbor Commission; Gen. Hincks and the other members of the Cambridge Park Committee with the exception of the Rev. Father O'Brien; Dr. Bennett F. Davenport of Watertown; and Mr. Taylor, the Messenger of the Charles River Improvement Commission, the members of the latter Commission accompanying the party were Mr. Isaac Bradford of Cambridge and Mr. Charles Eliot of Milton. Mr. Richards of Watertown awaiting to receive the company there.

The party first drove to the northerly end of the Charles River Bridge where after looking over the outdoor gymnasium for men and boys they walked along the east-

Embankment accompanied by Mr Olmsted, who explained the features of the locality to the gymnasium for women and playground for children at the southerly end. Mr Olmsted explained that the boulevard had been designed solely with reference to itself and as an isolated feature for the enjoyment and health of the crowded working class population near by and that its method of treatment had therefore been different from what would be adopted for a continuous water side esplanade or pleasure ground such as was proposed to be continued along the other portions of the River.

From here the party drove by the way of Charles, Brimmer, and Beacon Streets and the waterside backway on the rear of the Beacon Street houses to the Harvard Bridge where they crossed to the Cambridge side and after looking at the improvements in progress there carried on by the Charles River Embankment Commission they returned to the Boston side and drove by the way of Commonwealth Avenue to the Cottage Farm Bridge where they crossed again to the Cambridge side.

Here they noted the way in which the River shore was marred by industries

merely in search of cheap land and leaving no reference to transportation facilities afforded by a water front. In the rear of a Ropewalk which had just been established there was a fine bank of trees, evidently largely of original forest growth which showed how beautiful the shore of the River formerly must have been. In this neighborhood was a good residence section the inhabitants of which would inevitably be driven away in a comparatively short time by the undesirable character which the River front was assuming.

The party drove from here along the River as near as possible to the stumps of what is called Captain's Island near the site of the U. S. Powder Magazine, another naturally beautiful location now in process of destruction. From here they drove to the bridge that crosses to Brighton from the neighborhood of Harvard Square and the University Boat House. On the Brighton side, near the bridge they saw what is called Soldiers Field, presented to the University by Mr. H. L. Higginson. As the neighboring marshes are owned by the University, many of the party were struck by the opportunity of creating here

a fabulous pleasure grounds for the people of Cambridge in connection with the improvement of the River banks. They drove thro Brighton to the bridge crossing to Watertown at the various grounds all along the way they had opportunities to note how the visibility of the river had been made ugly by all sorts of disagreeable features, such as ground levels, dump heaps and other nuisances all of which today, could be removed at comparatively little cost, restoring to the streams and its banks an agreeable character.

Favorable condition is afforded by the possession of considerable tracts, at intervals along the stream, by national and municipal authorities as for instance the Watertown Arsenal grounds and the possessions of Cambridge and Watertown.

As they crossed the stream at low water, the shores were pitchy black with the foul deposits from sewage, etc. and a horrible stench greeted the nostrils of the party, one of the most convincing arguments of the necessity of doing something to improve the streams at this early date.

When at the bridge, the party pro-

met by Mr Richards the Watertown members of the Commission who accompanied them in a drive through the grounds of the old Stickney place, once a beautiful country seat facing the River but now fast going to decay by reason of the undesirable changes in the neighborhood.

From here they proceeded to the Town Hall, in Watertown, where they were met by the members of the sub-committee appointed by the Boards of Health of Newton, Watertown and Waltham to consider this subject, and a number of prominent citizens of that place and of Newton. The matter a much which was followed by a discussion of the problem at which Mr Richards presided and remarks were made by Messrs Eliot, Chase, Bradford Paxton Baker, Swift and a number of other gentlemen. All agreed that it was of the greatest importance for the interests of the entire metropolitan region that something should speedily be done for the improvement of the Charles River.

Mr. Osborne and Dr. Folsom had been obliged to leave the party on the arrival at Watertown.

Saturday,
Oct. 12.

A meeting of the Commission was held at 11 o'clock this morning. In accordance with the suggestion of Mr. Chase at the previous meeting memoranda were either submitted or suggestions were made as to the most important features of the problem before the Board by the three Commissioners, and also by the Landscape Architect and the Secretary.

Mr. Adams submitted his in writing. The document contained also suggestions as to a system of thoroughfare organization.

Mr. Chase said that from the point of view of importance he would consider; first, the Charles River, on the ground of both the health and the property interests involved. Second, the Middlesex Fells, as adapted to supply with an ample open space a rapidly growing population now in need of park facilities. Third, from the point of view of the benefit to the largest number of people in providing them with facilities for summer recreation, Revere Beach and looking far ahead, the Islands of the Harbor and Bay. Among the smaller

things that be considered the most desirable, he mentioned the Waverley Oaks the Glen and Echo Bridge of the Charles River and the Snake Creek Valley between Revere and Chelsea.

Mr. Las Casas said that first from the point of view of health, the establishment of recreation and the preservation or restoration of landscape beauty he would place the Charles River From the point of view of ease of acquiring and of immediate urgency he would place the Middlesex Fells, Arnold, looking a long distance ahead he would regard the Blue Hills.

Mr. Eliot said the most important thing of all on his mind was a subject which had not been as yet definitely considered and that was the providing of numerous small places throughout the Metropolitan region. Then he would consider the Ocean Beaches, the improvement of the Bay by providing a tree covering for the Islands and shores, and then the providing of convenient routes from the interior to the Bay and the shore and incidentally to the heart of the City, the River valleys furnishing the most natural ways for

this purpose. From the sanitary point of view he also considered the Stone valley as of great importance. Lastly he spoke of the providing of four public forests, at various points about the city, one of which already exists on the shore of the Spot Ponds, while the other three could be furnished by the Middlesex Fells, Prospect Hill in Waltham, and the Blue Hills. Prospect Hill, however, would probably be cared for by the local Park Commission at Waltham and therefore there would be no occasion for the Metropolitan Park Commission to consider that except as meeting one of the needs to supply which the Board was organized.

The Secretary also furnished his ideas in writing as to the features of the greatest importance.

On motion of Mr. Chase Mr. Sargent was appointed a Committee of one to confer with Mr. Conrad Reno as to acting as legal adviser to the Board, so far as drawing up a bill to be presented to the Legislature was concerned and to arrange with him to have him present at the next meeting

Adjourned until Tuesday, November 15, at 11.30 o'clock.

Tuesday,
November 15.

A meeting of the Commission was held at 11.30 this morning.

Mr. Conrad Reno was present to obtain the views of the Commissioners as to the drafting of a bill for submission to the Legislature

Mr. Adams read a revised draft of what he had written for the previous meeting of the Commission and suggested that it might form the skeleton of a report.

After a discussion as to the features that should be embodied in a legislative bill, it was decided that it would be best to follow the precedent of the Metropolitan Sewerage Act and recommend the appointment of Commissioners by the Governor, to be entrusted with the expenditure of a loan advanced by the State for a Metropolitan Park District, the same to be applied to the acquiring of various tracts recommended by this Commission.

The question of hearings to interested parties and conference with officials and other boards having to do with related subjects was brought up and the Secretary was requested to arrange for such as might be most convenient upon dates to be agreed upon with the Chairman

Adjourned subject to call of the Chairman.

Saturday,
December 26. A meeting of the Commission was held to-day at 11.30. The landscape architect was present and Mr. Keno as legal adviser and the draft of a bill embodying the ideas of the Commission; following in a general way the precedent of previous park legislation and including new features, of course, such as would be required to meet the case in hand.

It was decided that Hingham and Weymouth should also be included in the Metropolitan district so as to take in all the separate communities bordering the Bay.

The Secretary was requested to have the bill put in type at the State Printers.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Secretary.

Saturday
December 3/3

A meeting was held today at 11.30 in the office of the Boston Park Commission and in conference with the Mayor and Park Commissioners of Boston. There were present Mayor Matthews, the Park Commissioners of Boston, Messrs. Chase and Sargent of the Metropolitan Commission, Mr. Eliot and Mr. Reno, Mr. Clarke, Secretary of the Boston Commission and the Secretary of the Metropolitan Commission.

In the absence of Mr Adams, Mr. Chase requested the Secretary to state for the information of the Mayor and Boston Commissioners the result of the Metropolitan Commission's investigations and to relate what tracts it has been found advisable to recommend for reservation. Subjects of particular interest to Boston were discussed and it was agreed that Boston has a very immediate interest in the improvement of the Charles River and also in the matter of the Muddy land Basin, in West Roxbury district and Hyde Park, which it has been suggested should be taken by joint action of Boston and Hyde Park.

The various objects of the problem were discussed in an interesting way and the Mayor stated that he should favor the advancing of a loan by the State for the purpose of securing the various spaces suggested in the Metropolitan district, the loan to be for a long series of years and to

a paid by assessments apportioned among the various communities of the Metropolitan district in proportion to the benefit received. And he thought that, as the whole question was a matter of benefit to Boston particularly, that Boston could well afford to pay 50% of the whole. The loan to be for a long term of years, say 40 or 50, and repaid by the accumulation of a sinking fund. All that Boston would ask to have done within its own limits was the securing of the Muddy Pond Woods district for a public forest; and the benefit received from the creation of parks throughout the district would be regarded as of ample benefit to Boston, to justify the payment of the sum mentioned. These views ahd been discussed with the approval of all interests concerned, and it was estimated that a loan of one million dollars would be sufficient to secure the various improvements, if what could be looked for as contributions by private beneficence made outside of Boston were taken into account. The exercise of eminent domain by the Commission, were taken into account.

When questioned by Mr. Chase as to his opinion as to whether the act should be framed so as to require the acceptance of the various cities and towns concerned, the Mayor said he thought that such a condition would be inadvisable; that, in fact, such a provision would form an almost insuperable obstacle to the accomplishment

of anything in the election returns, that there were plenty of precedents for not submitting such an act, and that the Metropolitan district was a community by itself in its nature and different in its requirements from the remaining cities and towns of the State. It, therefore, should be treated differently. The justice of this view was generally admitted.

At 1.15 the Convention arose.

Tuesday
December 6

A meeting of the Commission was held today at 11.30, all the Commissioners being present together with the landscape architect and the legal advisor.

Copies of the draft of the proposed bill, which had been put in type by the State printer, were gone over and considered, and various suggestions for the improvement were made and Mr. Eno was requested to embody these in a new draft in consultation with Mr. Eliot the same to be presented to the next meeting for further consideration.

The Secretary called the attention of the Commission to the fact that Dr. Emil[illegible] Edwards had called and desired to bring the attention of the Commissioners to the pollution of the Concord and Sudbury rivers which threatened to be a serious matter. It was suggested that the way to treat this was by means of general legislation looking to keeping all the rivers of the State free from pollution and it was thought that this was a matter which more properly belonged in the sphere of the State Board of Health.

A notification was received from Dr. B.S. Davenport of Waterton to the effect that on Thursday, December 15, there would be an

the United States Hotel, a meeting of representatives of the various towns lying along the course of the Charles River and interested in the preservation of the river from pollution. It was agreed that it was a matter which should receive the attention of this board and the Secretary was requested to notify the members as the time of the meeting approached.

Adjourned to Thursday, Dec. 8, at 11.30.

Tuesday

December 8. A meeting of the Commission was held at 11.30 today. Beside the Commissioners there were present the Landscape Architect, Mr. Conrad Reno and the secretary. The matter of the proposed bill embodying the recommendations of the Commissioners report discussed at length. Various suggestions were made and Mr. Lee Cease was appointed a sub committee to join with Mr. Reno in making a revised draft putting the bill in proper shape.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Secretary.

Tuesday
December 5-

A meeting of representatives of the cities & towns bordering the Blackstone River was held at the United States Hotel, at 2 o'clock, this afternoon. The Metropolitan Park Commission was represented by Mr. Shaw, the landscape Architect, and the Secretary.

The appended article from the Herald gives an account of the meeting.

A meeting of the Commissioners was held at 1.30 today, to hear a special committee, appointed by the town of Revere to present the needs of that town in the matter of metropolitan park accommodations. There was also present Mr. Thayer the agent for the Saint Pines property

Hon. A. S. Burnham, the chairman of the board of selectmen, said that the committee was a joint one appointed to unite with the selectmen. Mr. Thayer said that the Point of Pines property included 190 acres with about 3 miles of water front, and a mile and a half of ocean beach. The original cost of the property was 350.000 dollars but it has lately been offered for sale for 225000 dollars.

Mr. Lyons of the board of selectmen said that the opportunities presented by Revere Beach were of the greatest value to the recreation of the public in the neighborhood of Boston. As to what should be done in the protecting off of all the chanties that now encumber the Beach the railroad moved

back, and a boulevard constructed from one end of the Beach to the other. He did not think that the persons who occupy the Beach had fee title to their properties, and that therefore complete deeds were not given. That fact would probably make the acquiring of the property for public purposes easier than otherwise would be.

Mr. Adcock and other gentlemen present all stated their ideas of what should be done in an interesting way and it seemed to be generally agreed that the town would be willing to bear its fair proportion of the expense of creating such an improvement as was needed.

The meeting of the Commissioners adjourned until Thursday, Jan 5.

January 23.

A meeting of the Commissioners was held today and the proposed law was thoroughly gone through with and put into what promises to be its final shape.

Mr. Keno was requested to confer for the next meeting of the Commissioners some ideas given to him by Mr. Adams, concerning legislation to enable cities and towns to lay out playgrounds with less financial burdens than they can at present.

Adjourned until Monday, Jan. 27 at 11.30

Monday January 9.

A meeting of the Commission was held, at 11.30 this morning. Mr. Conrad Reno and Mr. Eliot were present, with the Board. The bill, carrying out the plans of the Commission was nearly completed, and a proposed bill drawn by Mr. Adams to facilitate the establishment of playgrounds by cities and towns was considered.

Adjourned to Thursday, January 12, at 11 o'clock.

Thursday
January 12.

A meeting of the Commission was held, at 11 o'clock today. Mr. Reno and Mr. Eliot were present. The playground was further discussed and a draft of the bill was submitted by the Secretary to encourage the building of tenement dwellings around playground and garden spaces. The question of the report was also discussed.

Adjourned to Monday, January 16,

Washington,
January 16,

A meeting of the Commission was held at 11.30 today. Mr. Reno was present but Mr. Eliot could not attend on account of engagements.

Mr. Adams read the draft of the report which he had made for the Commission, embodying the conclusions and recommendations of the Board; and it was approved and signed by the Commissioners.

Some slight changes were made in the bills that had been under consideration. It was concluded to submit only the General Bill as the recommendation of the Commission leaving the three bills for a Bathing Act, a Playground Act, and to encourage the erection of tenement dwellings about gardens or playgrounds spaces to be recommended by the Secretary in his report.

It was decided that the Secretary's report should appear over his own signature following that of the Commissioners.

It was voted: that the arrange-

ments with the Secretary as to salary be continued until March 1st and that the Chairman be authorized to make all further necessary financial arrangements for the Board. The Secretary was requested to submit to the Chairman a statement of the expenditures thus far made.

The Secretary was authorized to attend to the legislative business of the Commission and also the getting of the Report to the Press and into other desirable hands.

The Secretary was also requested to notify the agents of the building that the rooms would be vacated on the last of February.

On motion to request of the Committee on the Constitution of the Charles River that the Board have a delegate to the convention to be held in the rooms of the Charles River Improvement Commission the Secretary was authorized to represent the Board and also at a meeting of the Board on Thursday.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

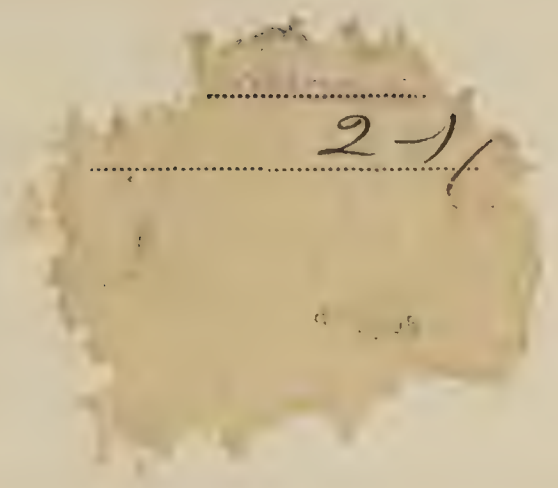
Thursday
Feb. 9

The joint special committee on Public Reservations [illegible] its first hearing on the Metropolitan Park question this morning. The following account was given in the Herald.

[illegible]

Tuesday
Feb. 14

The joint special committee on Public Recreation met in the second hearing on the Metropolitan park question today, as the following account in the Herald:



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Thursday
December 15-

A meeting of representatives of the cities and towns bordering the Charles River was held at the United States Hotel, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The Metropolitan Park Commission was represented by Mr. Chase, the landscape architect and the Secretary.

The appended article from the Herald gives an account of the meeting

THE CHARLES RIVER'S FILTH.

Meeting of Citizens to Fix Upon Plans for Change.

Representatives Present from All the Towns Along the River—Plan Suggested by Which the River Could Be Purified and Banks and Bed Cleansed at a Profit.

Mayor Matthews' recent investigation into the condition of Charles river, and into the sources contributing the nuisances polluting it, received a strong boom, yesterday afternoon, at a meeting of the representatives of the boards of health or selectmen of the towns and cities bordering on the banks of the river and its tributaries.

The meeting was held at the United States Hotel, in response to a call issued over the names of Abraham L. Richards, Bennett F. Davenport, Chester Sprague and Edward F. Porter, a committee appointed by the citizens of Watertown for the improvement of the Charles river.

Beside the committee appointed to call the meeting there were present the following gentlemen: Dr. S. W. Abbott of the state board of health, F. P. Stearns, chief engineer of the state board of health; Andrew J. Bailey, city solicitor of Boston; George F. Babbitt of the Boston board of health, Philip A. Chase of the Metropolitan park commission, Sylvester Baxter, secretary of the park commission; Isaac Bradford, secretary of the state commission for the improvement of the Charles river; Charles Eliot, engineer to the Charles river commission: Dr. H. O. Marcy and William H. Whitney, representing the city of Cambridge; Henry D. Yerxa of the Cambridge park committee: Senator Henry S. Milton of Waltham, S. A. D. Sheppard, Dr. D. E. Baker, Otis Pettee, E. T. Wiswall, William S. French and George P. Staples of Newton.

Dowse of Sherborn, Edgar H. Bowers of Needham, J. W. Higgins and George E. Post of Dover, Tucker Deland, Brookline; B. H. Dickson, Jr., M. M. Fiske, and F. W. Hastings of Weston, George A. King of Concord, J. T. McLoughlin, William B. Hale, William J. Clarke, C. R. Scott, M. P. Burns and Dr. R. H. Cochran, representing Milford; Judge Fairbanks and William McKean of Bellingham, C. J. McKenzie and J. B. Hopkins of Franklin, George W. Kingsbury and H. M. Parker of Medfield.

After a Light Lunch,

Mr. Richards called the meeting to order and stated that the committee which he represented had issued the call in order to ascertain by what means the present nuisance might be abolished, or, at least, abated. They desired the assistance of other towns and cities in the matter and hoped to lighten their duties by receiving such assistance; if not, then they intended to carry the matter to the Legislature and fight it out alone.

He was chosen by the gathering as chairman of the meeting, and William S. French of Newton was chosen secretary.

Mr. Richards asked Louis A. Cutter of the engineer's department of the city of Boston to present facts in relation to the river, and Mr. Cutter, who was one of the engineers in the inquiry made by Mayor Matthews, exhibited his maps and explained the work of that investigating committee. The facts have been printed by the HERALD.

Mr. Whitney of Cambridge said that in his opinion the matter was one of housekeeping. If the citizens want to keep the river clean then they must see that the refuse matter does not go into it. He acknowledged that at present the river was not in a pleasant condition at times, but he did not believe that the condition of affairs existed, such as some pictured. As for Cambridge, he felt that she was doing her share. Last year she contributed $40,000 toward building the great intercepting sewers, and would expend a much larger sum for the same purpose next year. When this sewer was finished he believed that the nuisance would be abated, and thought that the best methods to temporarily adjust matters was to have each town and city cease, so far as possible, from making the river a sewer. In this instance he cited the case of the Brighton abattoir, which had been putting in a sewer for the past two years, and had not yet done so, but still utilized the Charles as a receptacle for its filth.

Mr. Porter of Watertown disagreed with Mr. Whitney in some respects. He believed that the water as well as the river bed was foul. Watertown has recently put in about 13 miles of sewers, and so reduced its contribution of pollution to the river to a minimum, but on the Waltham side, he said, it acted as a sewer to no less than 7000 persons. From Cambridge and from the abattoir this sickening matter was washed up to Watertown, where it remained and gave out

An Offensive Odor,

because the tides at that point were not strong enough to wash it away.

Dr. Marcy of Cambridge said that he had labored for 15 years toward the end spoken of, and was delighted to find the interest taken in it.

"When the Moon island sewer was suggested people were staggered at the expense involved. They thought it would bankrupt the city of Boston; but it didn't, and where is there one who today will question its value? It is for the common good to remedy the nuisance in this river.

"My idea is this: The river is 2300 feet wide at the West Boston bridge. Narrow it to 1600 feet. This will make it deeper and cause a more rapid disposition of the refuse matter, because the water will travel swifter through a narrow place than trough a shallow one. Then I believe in taking 300 feet of the flats from Harvard bridge to the West Boston bridge and filling them in. This looks like a great enterprise and a costly one, but it would not cost so much after all.

"I would devote 200 feet of this new land to a driveway, and the other hundred I would sell for house lots. This may look visionary, but the entire Back Bay was built in this way, and this land for house lots would bring $5,000,000. The filling in could be accomplished for one-fifth of that sum, so that really it would be a good financial enterprise, and the Charles river would be made one of the most beautiful streams in the world."

City Solicitor Bailey, after saying that steps were being taken to connect the abattoir with the sewers, continued in the line marked out by Dr. Marcy.

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Dr. Abbott said that in his opinion one-half the filth in the river below the dam at Watertown came from the abattoir and from the packing houses at Cambridge.

Commissioner Babbitt of the Boston board of health said that plans were now being prepared by the Abattoir Association for the immediate disposition of its filth through the regular sewers, and that the Boston board of health was intercepting every sewage outlet emptying to the Charles river from its side.

Dr. Baker of Newton

then sounded the keynote to the whole question. After telling what Newton was doing in the matter, he said: "We may talk forever without doing any good, and I believe that we should go to the Legislature and ask for relief there."

This suggestion was applauded, and, while the doctor was putting the resolutions in writing, Mr. Hale and Dr. Clark spoke for Milford, Judge Fairbanks and Mr. McKean for Bellingham, and representatives from Franklin, Weston and Sherborn, Dover, Brookline, Needham and Newton made a few remarks, all strongly in favor of the action proposed by Dr. Baker and seconding the proposal for beautifying the banks of the river.

Dr. Baker then presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that it is the sense of this meeting that a comprehensive scheme for the purification of the Charles river and the improvement of its banks should, in the interest of public health, be devised by the Legislature, and the proper commission instructed to carry out the plans.

Resolved, that a committee, including one member from each town board of health concerned in the improvement, present this interest to the General Court at its next session, and that each local board be requested to elect such member, and that the chairman of this meeting be chairman of the committee.

Resolved, that each town bordering on the Charles river should see to it that no privies or preventable source of filth be allowed to empty into the river.

The meeting adjourned to await the call of the chairman.

Thursday
Feb. 9

The joint special committee on Public Reservations gave its first hearing on the Metropolitan Park question this morning. The following account was given in the Herald.

THE PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU.
Robert and Linn Luce, 68 Devonshire Street,
P. O. Box 2616, Boston.
Clipping No. 42
Clipping from
Herald, Boston, Mass.
Date 2/10

except at great cost to the community, and the cheapness of such land attracted a most undesirable class of inhabitants. There was no danger that an exorbitant amount of land in Stoneham would be taken. In Lynn, however, one third of the entire area of the city had been taken for the Lynn woods. This land was unfit for building purposes, and the prosperity of the entire city had been increased.

Mr. Edward Appleton of Lynnfield, a member of the trustees of public reservations, said that he lived near the borders of Lynn woods and testified to the great advantages derived by a community from such a public reservation. He had lived at the Langwood Hotel in the Middlesex Fells in the summer, and thought it extremely desirable that the Fells should be preserved for public use. He spoke strongly in favor of carrying out the recommendations of the metropolitan park commission.

Mr. Stackpole of Saugus was in favor of legislation on the line suggested by the commission.

Mr. Rosewell B. Lawrence of Medford, the secretary of the Appalachian Club, desired a hearing especially for the club, which would present important arguments in favor of the general question.

Mr. Joseph Carr of Chelsea, a member of that city's park commission, spoke of the great interest which Chelsea had in the question. He thought that a reduction in the area available for building purposes in certain cities and towns was highly desirable. He spoke from the standpoint of an experienced civil engineer when he said that in places like Everett, Malden and Chelsea, for instance, it would be a good thing for the community to withdraw lands of a certain character from use for building purposes, and devote them forever to public use.

More technically speaking, they found him guilty on 15 counts in the indictmen charging him with false certification o checks.

These counts

of Citizens — Lynn Woods and the Middlesex Fells.

The joint special committee on public reservations gave the first hearing on the metropolitan park question at the State House yesterday. The special subject of the hearing being so much of the Governor's message as relates to metropolitan parks.

Mr. Walter C. Wright of Medford spoke of the great importance to civilization of reservations of natural landscape for the recreation of the public, and particularly of wild tracts of woodland like the Middlesex Fells. He called attention to the fact that petitions of something like a thousand persons in Medford had been sent to the Legislature in favor of establishing a metropolitan park system which would include the Middlesex Fells.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter, the secretary of the Metropolitan park commission, explained that Hon. Charles Francis Adams, the chairman of the commission, was unable to attend the hearing on account of important business elsewhere, and that therefore he had been requested to represent the commission. There had been a great call for the reports of the commission, and the printed copies would probably be at the service of the Legislature early in the coming week, when there would be likely to be a large attendance at the hearings upon the subject. He explained certain features of the report of the commission, and of the bill presented in accordance therewith.

Mr. Sprague of Stoneham, the representative of that town in the Legislature, said that the people of his town had a particular interest in the subject on account of the large area which might be taken for the Middlesex Fells reservation. They would object to the taking of so large a portion of their territory as was represented on the map in the commission's report, but would favor the project if the taking were limited to a reasonable amount. He did not desire to see valuable taxable property thus taken, for it would injure the growth of the town.

Mr. Baxter explained that the reservations indicated on the map were simply suggestions; that all such questions would have to be left to a permanent commission, and that such a commission would not be likely to take lands essential to the growth of a town because of its value for building purposes. He showed how the prosperity of a community would be greatly promoted by such public reservations in its neighborhood, for a desirable class of population would be attracted. On the other hand, such wild, rocky and uneven lands as constituted the greater part of the Fells was unfit for building purposes, except at great cost to the community, and the cheapness of such land attracted a most undesirable class of inhabitants. There was no danger that an exorbitant amount of land in Stoneham would be taken. In Lynn, however, one third of the entire area of the city had been taken for the Lynn Woods. This land was unfit for building purposes, and the prosperity of the entire city had been increased.

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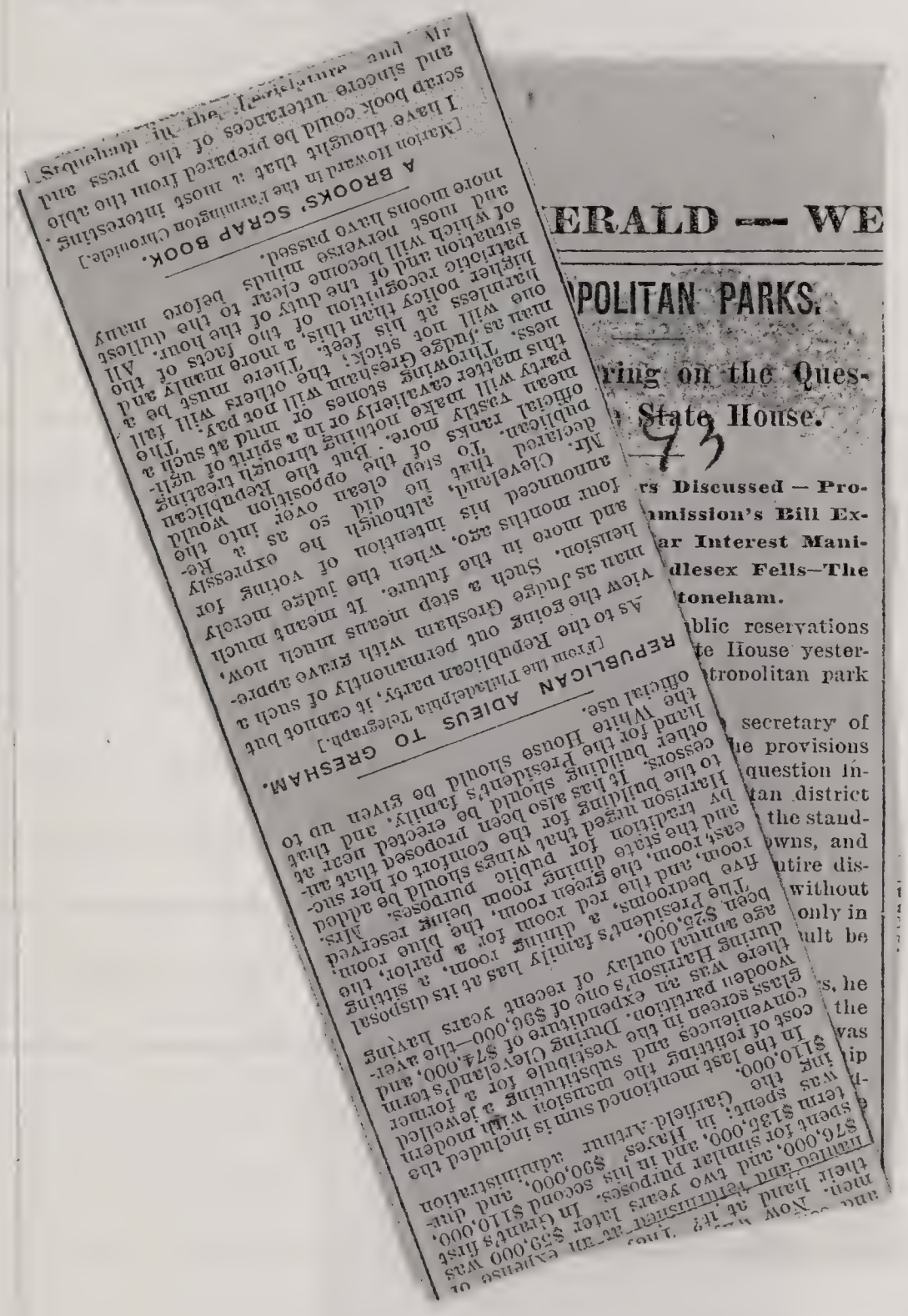
Tuesday
Feb. 14

The joint special committee on Public Reservations gave its ~~first~~ second hearing on the Metropolitan park question today, as by following account in the Herald:



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A BROOKS' SCRAP BOOK.

[Mation Howard in the Framingham Chronicle.]

I have thought that a most interesting scrap book could be prepared of the able and sincere utterances of the press and of the Legislature and Mr

REPUBLICAN ADIEUS TO GRESHAM.

[From the Philadelphia Telegraph.]

As to the going out permanently of such a man as Judge Gresham with Rutherford now, it meant much more. It meant merely a step in the future. Such a step in the direction of Voting for Republican Judge Gresham means much now, and that he may be elected next year to the Presidency, and that more moons have passed.

METROPOLITAN PARKS.

Second Hearing on the Question at the State House.

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Interesting Matters Discussed — Provisions of the Commission's Bill Explained — Particular Interest Manifested in the Middlesex Fells—The Taking of Land in Stoneham.

The committee on public reservations gave a hearing at the State House yesterday morning on the metropolitan park question.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter, the secretary of the commission, explained the provisions of the bill. He said that the question interested the entire metropolitan district as one community, and not from the standpoint of separate cities and towns, and therefore for this purpose the entire district should be treated as a unit, without distinction of political boundaries; only in this way could any important result be hoped for.

The provision for five commissioners, he explained, was in accordance with the general park act relating to cities. It was desirable to have, at least, a membership of five, in order to guard against too sudden changes in the composition of the board. The provision for advancing the credit of the commonwealth to the metropolitan district to the extent of $1,000,000 was practically the same as in the metropolitan sewerage legislation. It would cost the city nothing, and would save the various cities and towns something like 1 per cent. in interest.

As it was expected that Boston would bear 50 per cent. of the cost in consideration of the benefits derived, the proportion to be paid by the other cities and towns would be very slight, and would constitute no burden. There appeared to be no other way in which the means for acquiring the necessary tracts could be obtained, for the separate cities and towns could not be expected to make an appropriation out of their own immediate resources, which were demanded for meeting their ordinary needs. And even if they could, there would be no way of inducing them to work together without a plan of this character.

Hon. E. S. Converse, ex-mayor of Malden, expressed his hearty approval of the idea. He had always been in favor of parks, and his experience had shown that they were a great benefit to the community and increased the value of other property in their vicinity.

Mr. Stevens of Stoneham, a member of the park commission of that town, spoke strongly in favor of the proposition of the metropolitan park commissioners. His town had itself taken something like 125 acres for park purposes, including Bear hill, the highest elevation

In the Middlesex Fells.

and other attractive places in the neighborhood. In response to some questions put by Mr. Francis K. Sweetser of Stoneham, he said he did not think there was any ground for fearing that too large a territory would be taken out of his town, and he thought such a commission as would naturally be appointed under the proposed act could be trusted not to injure the interests of any town.

Mr. John Hill, also a member of the Stoneham park commission, spoke in favor of the proposition. He thought the reservation of the Middlesex Fells would be one of the best things that could occur for the interests of Stoneham, and he felt that one of the strongest arguments in favor of the proposed legislation was the great advantage which it would be to the entire community, composing the cities and

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Mr. Sprague, the representative from Stoneham in the Legislature, and Mr. Sweetser questioned Mr. Hill as to the effect of taking a large area out of the town and using it for park purposes; but Mr. Hill did not think there was any likelihood of injury to the town from such a source. The establishment of a public reservation would add to the attractiveness of the town and increase the value of property correspondingly.

Mr. Philip A. Chase of Lynn, a member of the metropolitan park commission, said that it was time that these various cities and towns ceased looking at such questions from

Narrow and Sordid Points of View,

and spoke of the benefits that would be derived from the application of the principle embodied in the golden rule, and consider that what was for the interest of the whole metropolitan community was just as much for the interest of each of its parts. He said that it would not be advisable to take any expensive lands for such purposes. There was such a thing as too much cheap land in a community, whose prosperity was injured by the improper occupation of such land.

He spoke of the results obtained in the Lynn Woods as a public forest. The entire city had been immensely benefited, the value of property in the neighborhood had been increased and the character of improvements made greatly raised. He was sure that Stoneham would have practically the same experience from a like proceeding. We should bear in mind how essential it was that communities should be willing to help one another in these mattters and cooperate with each other in carrying out improvements for their common benefit.

In answers to questions from Hon. Charles Francis Adams, the chairman of the metropolitan park commission, Mr. Chase said that in Lynn about 2000 acres had been taken for park purposes; in Lynn Woods from eight to ten miles of road had been constructed, and the entire cost, including voluntary contributions from citizens, was not over $85,000. Any movement to break up this public ground and adapt it for private purposes would not be tolerated for an instant, and it would raise as vigor-

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Mr. Francis K. Sweetser of Stoneham appeared not exactly as a remonstrant, for he believed that something should be done, but he opposed the taking of too much land out of the limits of his town. He represented a large amount of taxable property in Stoneham; and hopeditoo much power in this direction would not be given to such a commission as might be established.

Mr. Baxter asked Mr. Sweetser, as representing the Langwood Hotel property, if it would not be a great benefit to that property to have a permanent public reservation established in the Middlesex Fells in its neighborhood, and also if permanently pleasant approaches from various directions in the way of drives would not likewise enhance its value.

Mr. Sweetser acknowledged that it would, and also, in response to questions by Mr. Baxter, said that it would be a benefit to property in the neighborhood if

Spot Pond Could Be Restored

to its former aspect and once more filled with water. Mr. Baxter said that such measures as were proposed would be likely to bring about such desired results.

Mr. Sprague was under the impression that the metropolitan commission had recommended the taking of a large amount of land in Stoneham; but Mr. Adams said that the commission had made no recommendations as to the taking of any land whatever; it had only submitted certain suggestions and had only recommended the establishment of a permanent commission and that means be provided for making the work of such a commission effective. For the present commission to make definite recommendations he would consider an impertinence to the commission that might succeed it, for only the latter would have authority to act in the matter.

Mr. Rosewell B. Lawrence of Medford said that the taking of an unnecessary amount of land would meet with a powerful opposition in Medford as well as Stoneham, but he thought that such a commission as would be appointed could be entrusted to act conservatively upon such matters.

On Thursday morning of this week the committee will give a hearing upon the three other bills contained in the appendix of the metropolitan report, one of which is an addition to the general park law, enabling park commissions to take streets leading to parks for boulevard purposes, as in Illinois; the second is to facilitate the laying out of playgrounds by cities and towns; and the third is to encourage the building of tenement houses around garden or playground spaces.

On Friday morning at 10 o'clock, in the blue room, the committee will give a general public hearing upon the metropolitan park question, and it is expected that there will be a large attendance. On Tuesday morning of next week, at the same hour, a hearing will be given to members of the Appalachian Club on the same subject.

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Date 2-17

EXTENDING THE PARK SYSTEM.

Suggestions for Playgrounds, Boulevards and Garden Spots.

elapsed into a dead silence.

Mitchell went on to explain that, on account of their troubles with the authorities, they were

Not Prepared to Do Business

just then, and suggested that a meeting be held tomorrow to make a match. Brady replied:

"All right, I will meet you here tomorrow at 4 P. M."

"We will be here," said Baird, "and after we put up we will toss you for as much more."

Manager William A. Brady was questioned as to what he thought of the situation. He said:

"I fully believe Mitchell intends to arrange a match with Corbett. I was doubtful at first, but I have a feeling of confidence after seeing and talking with Mitchell which I did not have before. Making a match and fighting one, however, are two different things. Mitchell in this match will not only have to put up his money, but he will have to sign some kind of an ironclad agreement to fight. The articles for the Corbett Sullivan battle were full of loopholes, and we might have got out in several ways if we had wanted to do so."

"How about a stakeholder?"

"On our part we will agree to any reputable person. We have 15 men picked out for that purpose on our side, all of whom are New Yorkers except Capt. A. W. Cooke and Mr. David H. Blanchard of Boston."

"Are you at all surprised that Jackson declares himself out of the race because you negotiate a match with Mitchell instead of him?"

"Jackson or his manager has seen fit not to enter into this affair. That is Jackson's business, however, and not ours. We are not bothering our heads about Jackson at all. That would be a poor match for us, financially, compared with one with Mitchell. We are not looking for Jackson. And why should we? Corbett is the king. Let them go to him."

"Have you yet received any offer for the match?"

"I have received a telegram from Judge

2-17

EXTENDING THE PARK SYSTEM.

Suggestions for Playgrounds, Boulevards and Garden Spots.

Three Bills Recommended by Secretary Baxter of the Metropolitan Commission—How Playground Spaces Could Be Made in the Tenement Districts of the City.

Boulevards, playgrounds and the building of tenements around inclosed gardens were the subjects of the hearing on the metropolitan park question given by the committee on public reservations at the State House, yesterday, when three bills recommended by the secretary of the metropolitan park commission were considered.

Mr. Sylvester Baxter, the secretary of the commission, explained that, in the course of its investigations, it was found that it would be desirable to make certain improvements in the general park laws in order to facilitate the carrying out of a metropolitan system. The first bill considered was a proposed act in addition to the general park act of 1882. This was substantially the same as the Illinois boulevard law, by which the magnificent boulevard system of Chicago had been constructed. It enabled cities and towns to transfer to the care of their park commissions streets or parts of streets leading to parks or connecting with boulevards leading thereto, the same to be improved and maintained as parkways.

Mr. Baxter said that it would be a great advantage to Boston and the metropolitan district to have such a law. Streets thus cared for would be less costly to maintain, by reason of the exclusion of heavy traffic, and their greater desirability as places of residence would increase the value of taxable property.

Mr. Dudley of Cambridge thought that the general public should share the cost of improvement, and not leave all the expense to be borne by abuttors.

Mr. Butterfield of Stoneham thought that under such a law pleasant approaches to the Middlesex Fells could be provided to the advantage of all concerned.

The next bill was to enable cities and towns to establish playgrounds by allowing them to exceed their debt limit to the extent of one-half of 1 per cent. of their assessed valuation for the purchase of land for the purpose.

Senator Fitzgerald of Boston spoke strongly in support of the bill, saying that there was great need of playground space at the North end, where the crowded population had now no accessible breathing space, and the boys could not now even go down to the ends of the wharves and see the salt water, as they once could. He drew a graphic picture of the difficulties which children met with in playing in the streets, and that mothers with their children found in getting fresh air in the summer. He hoped that such a bill would be reported, and that Boston would find no difficulty in providing the needed playground space in its crowded sections.

The third bill was to encourage the building of tenement houses about inclosed garden or playground spaces by permitting the leasing of such inclosed space to the city at a nominal rental for a term of years, subject to renewal.

Mr. Baxter explained how, under such a law, the inclosed space might be made practically exempt from taxation, and thus encourage the building of such improved tenements as those of the Co-operative Building Company at the South end.

The hearing on these bills was continued until next Thursday at 10 o'clock.

This morning, at 10 o'clock, there will be a general hearing on the metropolitan park question in the Blue room, when Hon. Charles Francis Adams and others will speak.

Feb. 22, '91

URGING PARK RESERVATIONS.

Benefits of Breathing Places for the Masses.

Members of the Appalachian Club Before the Joint Committee at the State House—Plan of the Commissioners Favorably Reported Upon to the House.

The joint committee on public reservations gave a hearing to the Appalachian Club on so much of the Governor's message as relates to a metropolitan park system at the State House yesterday.

Hon. Charles Francis Adams, chairman of the metropolitan park commission, appeared in an official capacity, and cross-examined some of the witnesses.

There was a large attendance of ladies, and the sympathy in the movement was almost universal.

Prof. Charles E. Fay, president of the Appalachian Club, explained the connection of the club with the movement for metropolitan parks. It has a membership of nearly 900 in various parts of the country, but chiefly in the metropolitan district of Boston.

The club by reason of its devotion to outdoor life was strongly in favor of the project. He spoke of the great benefit which would come to the common people, and, above all, the poor, from the realization of the commissioners' plan.

Rev. Theodore F. Wright of Cambridge spoke of parks, especially hill tops, as promotive of public order, with some references to other cities. From the hill tops the people got an outlook, an uplift, that made all life different for them. We were missing it every day that we let this matter go by.

Col. T. W. Higginson of Cambridge spoke of the benefits of outdoor life. The growth of the Appalachian Club had shown that the American people were lovers of outdoor life, and we

Needed Ample Provision

to that end. The lands that were once open to all people to roam over in the neighborhood of Boston were now being built over and the public excluded.

Rare wild flowers and birds had now disappeared, and there had been a gradual banishing farther and farther in the country.

The situation here was such that the separate communities could not act together in obtaining the needed park system.

He instanced Norton's woods in Cambridge which that city would not consider

because it was close to Somerville and Somerville would get the benefit. He was strongly in favor of this plan and the commissioners' bill. It seemed absolutely necessary that this should be done by state action.

Prof. William H. Niles of the Institute of Technology spoke of the importance of preserving natural features of landscape as a means of educational work. In his department of geology and geography he found these features really essential to technical education.

Every year, for instance, he took his classes to the beautiful Hemlock gorge on the Charles at Newton Upper Falls, as one of the most perfect examples of how a river breaks through a strong, rocky obstacle.

So with the seashore. Students who in early life had the advantage of contact with these natural features of landscape learned the best results in their training.

The preservation of these features would be a very great advantage to the educational work of the institute. It was as important in technical education as in business for young men to begin at the bottom and work up, and they should begin with primitive nature.

With the present advantages around Boston, scholars and teachers could be brought into contact with physical features, and these advantages should be made permanent.

He told of a Chicago young lady teacher who, with her diploma in hand, said she believed that she did not have any true conception of a hill, never having seen one, or of

A Running Stream,

never having seen water flowing swiftly.

Chicago might have its universities endowed with millions, but it could never give the educational advantages of New England, with its varied scenery.

Mayor Bancroft of Cambridge spoke of the needs of his city. They had found that parks were useful as well as ornamental; next after sewerage and a water supply the most useful thing that could be furnished by the public.

The larger tracts like the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells belonged to the entire community.

He said it was a question with his city whether it should take the Charlesbank or wait for the Legislature to act in the premises.

He thought that the credit of the state would allow Cambridge to take land cheaper than any other way.

Prof. Edmunds of the Cambridge observatory, a former president of the club, said that the club was working on the American idea of securing open spaces here and there, rather than upon the English one of preserving large tracts.

In his rambles about the country he said he noticed that more wire fences were being put up, more inclination to regard excursionists as trespassers, and more disposition to mar choice bits of scenery.

Mr. Hastings of Cambridge urged the need of immediate action. Miss Ellen Wright, whose pamphlet on the subject before the committee is given to the Legislature, was introduced by her brother, Mr. Walter C. Wright. Among other things she told of the danger which the destruction of the Fells woods carried to the

Water Supply of That Region.

Mr. A. A. Perry of Somerville said that no matter before the Legislature was more important than the call for a metropolitan park commission. He said he had taken many men who had lived for years within a few miles of the Middlesex Fells, and what they saw was a revelation to them. There was nothing wilder or more beautiful in the White mountains. He had spent more time in the Fells during the past five years than at his business.

Mr. W. H. Cades presented the committee with a large number of views of the hatchet work done by boys in the Fells, and Mr. Wright raised a laugh by saying they should have been kept for Washington's birthday.

Prof. Edwin Start of Tufts College also spoke for the bill.

Mr. Doxter of Malden was called upon as a probable remonstrant. He said he did not object to the taking of some 60 acres of land owned by him in the Fells, but 20 acres more, near the city of Malden, he wanted to sell for house lots, and should ask to have them left out of the reservations.

Mr. Rosewell B. Lawrence, secretary of the club, told of postal cards which he had sent. He said he had in that way received over 500 signatures to the petition. Of these 261 came from the metropolitan district of Boston, from Cambridge, 36; Newton, 40; Lynn, 20; Somerville, 11; Brookline, 15; representatives from 11 cities and 14 towns. Letters had come from all over the country.

A hearing will be given next Thursday morning on the subject of the three bills for improving parks legislation recommended by the secretary of the metropolitan park commission.

The hearings on the main question were declared closed, and in the afternoon the committee reported the commissioners' bill favorably to the House.